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# 1 PLAY IT SAFE

Emergency—dial 911

**High Altitude** Most of the park is above 7,500 feet (2,275 m). Allow time to acclimate and drink plenty of liquids. Visitors with cardiac or respiratory medical histories should contact a physician prior to their visit.

**Weather** Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable. Be prepared for changing temperatures, storms, and emergencies. Carry adequate clothing and gear.

**Traffic** Most roads are busy, narrow, and rough; some are steep with sharp drop-offs. Watch out for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, wildlife, and road damage. Pull into turnouts to let other cars pass. Always wear your seatbelt.

**Bicycling** Wear safety gear, including helmet and high visibility clothing. Park roads are narrow and winding with few shoulders. In spring, high snowbanks make travel dangerous. Road elevations range from 5,300–8,860 feet (1,615–2,700 m); long distances exist between services and facilities.

**Falling Trees** Avoid areas of dead trees (snags), which may suddenly fall—especially on windy days.

**Stream Crossing** High water conditions persist well into summer. If your plans include fishing or crossing streams, check at local ranger stations for water conditions.

**Theft** Lock your vehicle; keep valuables out of sight; label all valuable property with your name, address, or identification number. Report theft or vandalism to a ranger.

## CAUTION: SCALDING WATER

Beautiful but deadly: Yellowstone's hydrothermal features can kill you. Their waters are frequently near or above boiling. The crust surrounding them is thin and breaks easily, and often overlies more scalding water. People have died in these pools. Be safe, be careful—enjoy the hydrothermal areas from a distance.

- **You must stay on boardwalks and designated trails.** They exist to protect you and to preserve delicate formations.
- Pets are prohibited in hydrothermal areas.
- Swimming or bathing is prohibited in hydrothermal pools or streams where water flows entirely from a hydrothermal spring or pool.
- Where swimming is allowed, swim at your own risk. Hydrothermal waters can harbor organisms that cause a fatal meningitis infection and Legionnaires' disease. Obtain more information at any ranger station or visitor center.
- Toxic gases exist at dangerous levels in some hydrothermal areas. If you feel sick, leave the location immediately.

## WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN?

Your hand and voice may be too far away if your child leaves your side. Keep your children next to you and make sure they understand the hazards of Yellowstone—especially hydrothermal areas and wildlife.

## WATCH OUT! WILD ANIMALS ALL AROUND YOU

Yellowstone is not a zoo and the animals are not tame, even though they may seem calm. **Do not approach any animals.** View them from the safety of your vehicle. **If an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.**

Each year park visitors are injured when they approach animals too closely. **You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and at least 25 yards (23 m) away from all other animals—including bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, wolves, and coyotes.**

**BISON** are unpredictable and dangerous, and every year visitors are injured. Bison weigh up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg) and sprint 30 miles per hour (48 kph)—three times faster than you can run.

**BEARS** may be seen from March through November. Be alert for tracks and sign. Never approach animal carcasses. Report all bear sightings to a ranger.

**COYOTES** quickly learn habits like roadside begging. This may lead to aggressive



**Bull elk sparring. Keep your distance!**

NPS photo/Schmidt

behavior toward humans and can increase the risk of the coyote being poached or hit by a vehicle.

**RAVENS** have learned to unzip and unsnap packs. Do not allow them access to your food.

**Do not feed any animals. It's harmful to them and it's illegal.**

# 2 HIGHLIGHTS



NPS photo/Keller

Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River

## History

People have been visiting and living in the Yellowstone area for thousands of years. In the mid 1800s, explorers and artists brought Yellowstone's wonders to the attention of the federal government. The park was established in 1872. Visit Mammoth Hot Springs to walk the

self-guiding trail around Fort Yellowstone, which chronicles the U.S. Army's role in protecting the park. Other historic sites include the Norris Geyser Basin Museum, Obsidian Cliff, and the Old Faithful Inn and Historic District.

## Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

This spectacular canyon, including the Upper and Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, can be seen from the overlooks and trails of the Canyon Village area, and from the Tower Fall and Calcite Springs overlooks south of Tower Junction.

## Geysers & Hot Springs

Geysers, hot springs, mudpots, and fumaroles are evidence of ongoing volcanic activity. To see them, visit Mammoth Hot Springs, Norris Geyser Basin, Fountain Paint Pot, Midway Geyser Basin, the Old Faithful area, West Thumb Geyser Basin, and Mud Volcano.

Read more about park highlights at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell)

## Lake Area

Yellowstone Lake is North America's largest high-altitude lake. The area is prime habitat for a variety of birds and mammals. You can also enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, and viewing hydrothermal features.

## Wildlife

You can see a variety and abundance of wildlife unparalleled in the lower 48 states. All the large mammals present when Yellowstone became a park are here today: grizzly and black bears, wolves, mountain lions, elk, bison, pronghorn, moose, and bighorn sheep. You'll also see a large variety of birds, including bald eagles. Check at a visitor center or in the park newspaper for the best wildlife viewing locations.

## Wildflowers

Magenta and blue—the colors used in this planner—hint at the vibrant wildflowers that brighten Yellowstone in summer.

## Open All Year

### Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth

Information, bookstore, and exhibits on wildlife and history. Films on the national park idea, Yellowstone, and artist Thomas Moran.

### Open April–November & Winter Old Faithful Visitor Center Mid April–early November

Information, bookstore, and geyser eruption predictions. Film about hydrothermal features.

*Also open late December through early March. Access only via over-snow vehicle.*

### West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center Late April–early November

Information and publications.

*Also open mid December through early March.*

## VISITOR CENTERS & MUSEUMS

### Open late May–late September

#### Canyon Visitor Center

Information and bookstore.

#### Fishing Bridge Visitor Center

Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the park's birds and other wildlife.

#### Grant Visitor Center

Information, bookstore, exhibit and video on fire in Yellowstone.

#### West Thumb Information Station

Information and bookstore.

#### Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris

Exhibits at this historic soldier station (photo at right) trace the development of the park ranger profession.

#### Madison Information Station

Information and bookstore.

#### Norris Geyser Basin Museum

Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the hydrothermal features of Yellowstone.



NPS photo/Peaco

# 3 WHAT TO DO

For current schedules of activities, consult the park website ([www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell)) or the park newspaper when you arrive.

## PROGRAMS & TOURS



NPS photo/Peaco

### Interpretive Park Ranger Programs

Rangers lead activities and programs—from short walks to evening campfire programs—during the summer and winter seasons. They also rove through major park feature areas to answer your questions and help you understand the many wonders of Yellowstone.

### Junior Rangers

Yellowstone's Junior Ranger Program, for young people ages 5–12, promotes involvement in and understanding of Yellowstone; ask at visitor centers for more information.

### Yellowstone Association Institute

The park's official educational partner offers affordable wildlife watching tours, backpacking trips, and short courses on the wonders of Yellowstone. Most programs are based at the Lamar Valley field campus or park hotels. Call 307-344-2294 or visit [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org).

### Other Activities

Xanterra Parks and Resorts offers motor-coach tours, boat rentals and tours, fishing trips, cookouts, horseback and stagecoach rides, and special excursions. Call 307-344-7311 or visit [www.TravelYellowstone.com](http://www.TravelYellowstone.com)

## DRIVING THE PARK

**The Grand Loop** Drive to major features on this narrow, winding road. Allow plenty of time for driving from place to place.

**Summer** Park roads are generally open for travel, barring accidents, rock/mud slides, or road construction.

**Autumn** Storms may cause temporary restrictions (chain or snow tire requirements) or closures of roads.

Park roads close on the first Monday of November, except the road from Gardiner to Cooke City, MT, which is open all year.

**Road construction occurs each year; check at a visitor center upon arrival.**

**Winter** All roads and entrances, with one exception, are closed to motor vehicle travel; most are groomed for over-snow vehicles. The exception is the North Entrance road from Gardiner to Cooke City, MT, which is open only to wheeled vehicles and may close at any time due to storms. Mud/Snow tires are recommended and often required. You must return to the North Entrance to leave the park.

**Spring** Park roads open by sections beginning the third Friday in April. Storms may cause restrictions or closures on some roads.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Deluxe Trip Planner from the nonprofit Yellowstone Association includes everything you need to plan a fun and educational visit to Yellowstone: *Yellowstone: The Official Guide to Touring America's First National Park*, *Yellowstone Trails: A Hiking Guide*, National Geographic Yellowstone Park Map, *Yellowstone and Grand Teton Road Guide*, and *Large Mammals of Yellowstone*. Package Price—\$29.95 (\$41.30 if purchased separately). To order, call 877-967-0090 or visit [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org).



## ON YOUR OWN

**Bicycling** is allowed on public roads, parking areas, and designated routes; it is prohibited on boardwalks and backcountry trails.

**Boating** is allowed on most of Yellowstone Lake and on Lewis Lake. Only non-motorized boating is allowed on most other lakes and one river: the Lewis River between Lewis and Shoshone Lakes. All boats and float tubes require permits.

**Climbing** isn't recommended due to loose, crumbly rock; it's illegal in the Grand Canyon. Contact the backcountry office for information.

**Fishing** is allowed in certain areas and with permits. See "Permits" for more information.

**Hiking** takes you far from roads and crowds. Check trail conditions at visitor centers or ranger stations.

**Picnic areas** exist throughout the park. They usually have pit toilets, but no drinking water. Fires are legal in areas with fire grates; inquire when you arrive.

**Self-guiding trails** explore Mammoth Hot Springs, Fort Yellowstone, Norris Geyser Basin, Fountain Paint Pot, Upper Geyser Basin, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, West Thumb Geyser Basin, and Mud Volcano.

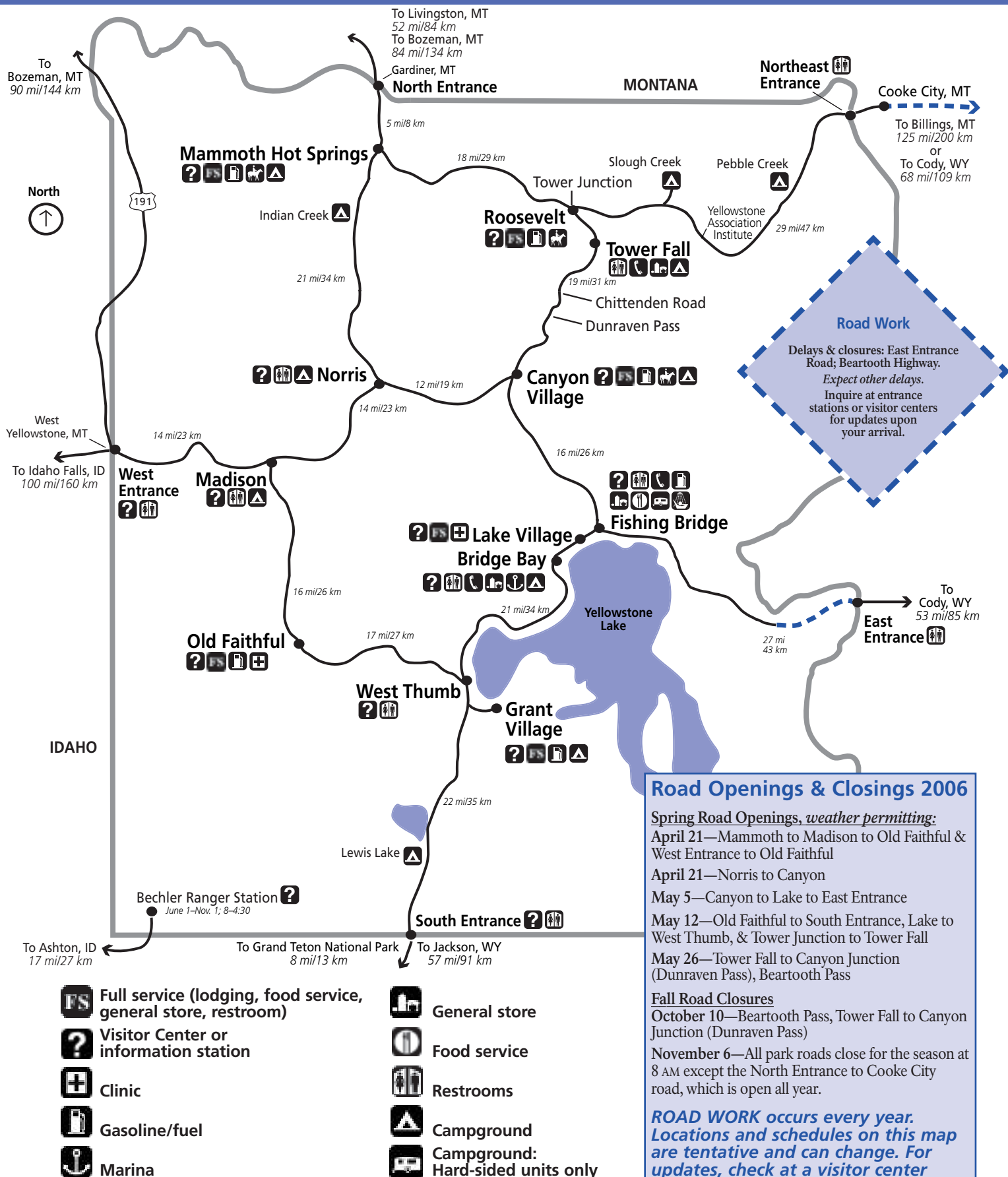
**Stock use** depends on trail conditions. Contact the backcountry office for information. Hay restrictions enforced; see "Regulations."

**Swimming, bathing, and wading** are discouraged due to extremely cold water. They are illegal in hydrothermal features or streams flowing from hydrothermal features.



# 4 MAP

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION** locations and schedules can change. Check at a visitor center upon arrival.



## Road Openings & Closings 2006

### Spring Road Openings, *weather permitting:*

April 21—Mammoth to Madison to Old Faithful & West Entrance to Old Faithful

April 21—Norris to Canyon

May 5—Canyon to Lake to East Entrance

May 12—Old Faithful to South Entrance, Lake to West Thumb, & Tower Junction to Tower Fall

May 26—Tower Fall to Canyon Junction (Dunraven Pass), Beartooth Pass

### Fall Road Closures

October 10—Beartooth Pass, Tower Fall to Canyon Junction (Dunraven Pass)

November 6—All park roads close for the season at 8 AM except the North Entrance to Cooke City road, which is open all year.

**ROAD WORK** occurs every year. Locations and schedules on this map are tentative and can change. For updates, check at a visitor center upon arrival.

# 5 SERVICES


	ATM	Auto/RV Repair	Backcountry Office	Boat Cruises	Bus Tours	Fishing Permits	Fuel	General Store/Groceries	Horseback Riding	Hotel/Lodge Gift Shop	Lodging	Marina	Public Laundry	Public Showers	Ranger Station	Restaurant/Cafeteria	Visitor Center
Bridge Bay																	Early June–Sept.
Canyon																	Late May–Sept.
Fishing Bridge																	Late May–Sept.
Grant Village																	Late May–Sept.
Lake Village																	May–October
Mammoth Hot Springs																	May–October
Old Faithful																	May–October
Roosevelt																	June–early Sept.
Tower Fall																	May–September

Dates and hours of operation vary and are subject to change.  
For more information, see “Useful Phone Numbers and Websites” below.


## OTHER SERVICES

**Medical Services** In summer, outpatient medical services are offered at Lake, Mammoth, and Old Faithful. Ambulances, 24-hour emergency service, laboratory, pharmacy, and radiology services are available. Mammoth Clinic is open year-round. The park is on 911 service.

**Worship Services** Worship services take place in the park and in communities adjacent to the park, and include most major denominations and interdenominational services during the summer. Check at visitor centers for information.

 **Accessibility** *Visitors Guide to Accessible Features in Yellowstone National Park*, available free at entrance stations and visitor centers in the park, describes facilities judged to be negotiable for wheelchair users. Additional facilities are being made accessible as quickly as possible within funding limitations. For more information, write to:

Park Accessibility Coordinator  
P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190  
TDD only: 307-344-2017

 **Sign Language Interpreters**  
Sign language interpreters for Yellowstone National Park interpretive programs need to be arranged three weeks in advance. Call 307-344-2251.

## Nearby Parks, Forests, & Chambers of Commerce

### National Parks

Grand Teton NP  
307-739-3300  
Glacier NP  
406-888-7800

### National Forests

Shoshone  
307-527-6241  
Gallatin  
406-587-6701  
Bridger-Teton  
307-739-5500  
Caribou-Targhee  
208-624-3151  
Custer  
406-657-6200

### Montana Chambers of Commerce

Big Sky 406-995-3000  
Billings 406-245-4111  
Bozeman 406-586-5421  
Gardiner 406-848-7971  
Livingston 406-222-0850  
West Yellowstone 406-646-7701  
Cooke City–Silver Gate 406-838-2495  
Red Lodge 406-446-1718

### Wyoming Chambers of Commerce

Cody 307-587-2297  
Jackson 307-733-3316  
Dubois 307-455-2556  
E. Yellowstone/Wapiti Valley 307-587-9595

### Idaho Chambers of Commerce

Idaho Falls 208-523-1010  
Eastern Idaho Visitor Info 800-634-3246

## Useful Phone Numbers & Websites

- Yellowstone National Park:  
307-344-7381; TDD 307-344-2386; [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell)
- Lodging & activities: 307-344-7311; TDD 307-344-5395;  
[www.TravelYellowstone.com](http://www.TravelYellowstone.com)
- Yellowstone Association (maps, books, classes): 307-344-2293;  
[www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org)

# 6 YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT . . .

## REGULATIONS

**Bicycling** is allowed on established public roads, parking areas, and designated routes; it is prohibited on boardwalks and backcountry trails.

**Boaters** must have a Coast Guard approved “wearable” personal flotation device for each person boating.

**Calling to attract wildlife**—bugling to elk, howling to wolves, etc.—is illegal.

**Disturbing park features**—possessing, collecting, removing, defacing, or destroying any natural or archeological objects or plants, animals, or minerals—is prohibited.

**Driving while intoxicated** or under the influence is illegal.

**Feeding animals** is against the law.

**Fires** are permitted only in designated campgrounds, in picnic areas with fire grates, and in some backcountry campsites. Any dead-and-down material may be used as firewood, but

chainsaws are prohibited. Extinguish all fires.

**Fishing tackle** must be non-toxic. Lead split-shot sinkers, soft lead-weighted ribbon, and other toxic tackle are not allowed.

**Food** must be attended at all times while not in storage. Never leave food outside your vehicle or around your campsite—*not even inside a cooler*—when you are away or asleep.

**Hay & stock feed** are allowed only if certified weed-free hay and processed feed; hay must be baled and covered. Trailers must be clean and empty of manure, loose hay, or feed.

**Littering** is illegal, unsightly, destroys hydrothermal features, and injures wildlife.

**Motorcycles**, motor scooters, and motor bikes are not allowed off-road or on trails. Operators must carry a valid state driver’s license and vehicles must display valid state license plates.

**Pets** must be leashed. They are prohibited on any trails, in the backcountry, and in hydrothermal basins. Pets are not allowed more than

100 feet (30.5 m) from a road or parking area. Leaving a pet unattended and/or tied to an object is prohibited.

**Seat belts** must be worn by all occupants when the vehicle is in motion.

**Service animals** are allowed on trails and boardwalks in major areas; they require permits in the backcountry (see below).

**Slow-moving vehicles** must pull over to let others pass. Never stop or pause in the middle of the road—use pullouts.

**Speed limit** is 45 mph (73 kph) *or less*.

**Spotlighting**—viewing animals with artificial light—is illegal.

**Weapons and firearms**, including state-permitted concealed weapons, are not allowed in Yellowstone. **Unloaded** firearms may be transported in a vehicle when the weapon is cased, broken down or rendered inoperable, and stored in a manner that prevents ready use. Ammunition must be placed in a separate compartment of the vehicle.

## PERMITS

**Anglers** require permits to fish in Yellowstone National Park; no state license is required. Regulations and fees are changing for 2006, but are not final as of this printing. Please refer to the park website ([www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/fishing](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/fishing)) or inquire upon your arrival at ranger stations or visitor centers.

**Fishing season** generally begins on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend (usually the last weekend in May) and continues through the

first Sunday of November. Fishing season opens later around Yellowstone Lake and between the lake and the Grand Canyon. For additional information, check park fishing regulations or [www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/fishing](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/fishing).

**Motorized boats** require permits: purchase at South Entrance, Lewis Lake Campground, Grant Village backcountry office, Bridge Bay Marina, and Bridge Bay Ranger Station.

**Non-motorized boats & float tubes** require permits: purchase at Old Faithful, Mammoth, and Canyon backcountry offices, Bechler Ranger Station, West and

Northeast entrances, and West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center.

**Overnight backcountry camping** requires a permit, free 48 hours or less in advance or for a fee by mail beginning April 1. For more information, request a backcountry trip planner from the Backcountry Office, Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

**Service animals** are allowed in the backcountry, but must have permits. Contact the Backcountry Office (address above) for more information.

## ENTRANCE FEES *effective May 1*

Private, noncommercial automobile	\$25 (7 days, both Yellowstone and Grand Teton)
Motorcycle	\$20 (7 days, both parks)
Single entry (foot, bike, ski, etc.)	\$15 (7 days, both parks)
Annual Pass, both parks	\$40 (valid one year from date of purchase)
National Parks Pass	\$50 (valid one year from date of purchase for entrance fees at National Park Service areas)
Golden Eagle Pass	\$65 (valid one year from date of purchase at most federal fee collection areas)
Golden Age Pass	\$10 (lifetime pass for citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. 62 years of age and older)
Golden Access Pass	Free (available to those citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have been determined to be blind or permanently disabled)

*Fees before May 1, 2006: individual—\$10; private, noncommercial automobile—\$20; Motorcycle—\$15*

**The National Parks Pass** (\$50, shown on the back cover) admits you to all National Park Service areas for one year. Buy it here, and **70% of the fee supports projects here**; the rest supports projects in other national parks. Purchase your pass at park entrance stations or West Contact Station, West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, or call 888-GO-Parks (888-467-2757), or visit [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org). Upgrade to a Golden Eagle Pass for \$15 more and gain admission to all federal fee areas.

# 7 CAMPING

	Dates**	Fees**	Sites	Elev (ft)	Features
Bridge Bay*	5/26–9/17	\$18	431	7,800	A, F, DS, G
Canyon*	6/9–9/10	\$18	272	7,900	A, F, S/L, G
Fishing Bridge RV*	5/19–10/1	\$35	346	7,800	F, S/L, DS, G, hookups
Grant Village*	6/21–9/24	\$18	425	7,800	A, F, S/L, DS, G
Madison*	5/5–10/29	\$18	280	6,800	A, F, G, DS
Indian Creek	6/9–9/18	\$12	75	7,300	V
Lewis Lake	6/16–11/5	\$12	85	7,800	V
Mammoth	All year	\$14	85	6,200	A, F, G
Norris	5/19–9/25	\$14	116	7,500	F, G
Pebble Creek	6/9–9/25	\$12	36	6,900	V
Slough Creek	5/26–10/31	\$12	29	6,250	V
Tower Fall	5/19–9/25	\$12	32	6,600	V

\* Reserve these sites by calling Xanterra Parks and Resorts: 307-344-7311 or TDD 307-344-5395.

\*\*Fees & dates may change; updates at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell)  
**Holders of Golden Age and Golden Access** passes receive approximately 50% discount on camping fees, except at Fishing Bridge RV Park.

**A** Accessible sites available  
**F** Flush toilets  
**V** Vault toilets  
**S/L** Pay showers/laundry near  
**DS** Dump station  
**G** Generators OK 8 AM–8 PM

## How Long Can You Camp?

14 days total at any combination of campgrounds between June 30 and September 15; 30 days the rest of the year. No limit at Fishing Bridge.

## Group Camping

Available at Madison, Grant, and Bridge Bay campgrounds for large organized groups with a designated leader such as youth groups or educational groups. \$50–\$82 per night, depending on group size.\*\* Reservations are required. Contact Xanterra Parks and Resorts: P.O. Box 165, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; 307-344-7311.

## Attention RV Drivers

Few campsites exist in the park to accommodate RVs longer than 30 feet. Reservations recommended for these large sites at Fishing Bridge RV Park, and in campgrounds outside the park (map on center pages).

## WEATHER

### Spring

Cold and snow linger into June, although temperatures gradually climb. Early in spring, daytime temperatures average in the 40s and 50s; by late May and June, they may reach the 60s and 70s. Nighttime lows fall below freezing.

### Summer

Daytime temperatures are usually in the 70s, occasionally the 80s in the lower elevations. Nights are cool—temperatures may drop into the 40s and 30s, sometimes even the 20s. June can be cool and rainy; July and August tend to be somewhat drier, although afternoon thunder showers are common.

### Autumn

Weather can be pleasant, although temperatures average 10–20 degrees lower than summer readings. Nighttime lows can fall into the teens and lower. Snow increases in frequency and intensity as the weeks go by.

### Winter

Temperatures often hover near zero throughout the day, occasionally reaching highs in the 20s. Subzero nighttime lows are common. Annual snowfall averages nearly 150 inches in most of the park. At higher elevations, 200–400 inches of snow have been recorded.

## WINTER IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Yellowstone is open in the winter. For more information, view “The Park In Winter” at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell) or call 307-344-2116 and ask for Yell 165. It’s free.

## TRIP CHECKLIST

- ☐ Plan itinerary around road construction.
- ☐ Make lodging reservations early.
- ☐ Reserve campsites or plan to secure campsite early in the day.
- ☐ Review park safety, regulations, and permit information.
- ☐ Pack clothes you can layer; be prepared for rain or snow, cool conditions, heat.
- ☐ Prepare day packs with snacks, water bottles, maps, sunscreen, compass.
- ☐ Call ahead for up-to-date road and weather information.
- ☐ For more trip planning materials or to plan to take a class, visit [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org).

### You might also want:

binoculars • camera & film  
 • notebook • field guides

### You can find in the park:

Everything listed above, plus basic camping gear, other books, groceries, souvenir clothing.